

REMARKS

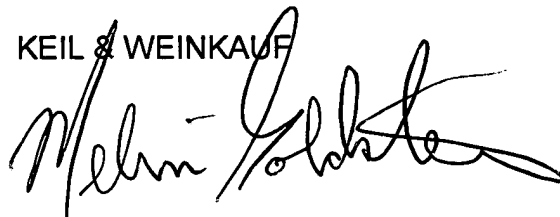
New claims 8 and 9 are supported by original claims 4 and 5. The amendments have been made to preempt a rejection under 35 USC § 101. Further, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to reinstate the correct Formula I in each claim, which formula was mis-printed in the full set of claims submitted after the Preliminary Amendment filed with this application.

In response to the election of species requirement, applicants elect with traverse polyethylene glycol as the polyether and vinyl acetate as the vinyl ester.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to Deposit Account No. 11-0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

KEIL & WEINKAUF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melvin Goldstein', written over the printed name.

Melvin Goldstein  
Reg. No. 41,560

1101 Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202)659-0100

MG/kas

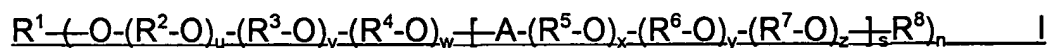
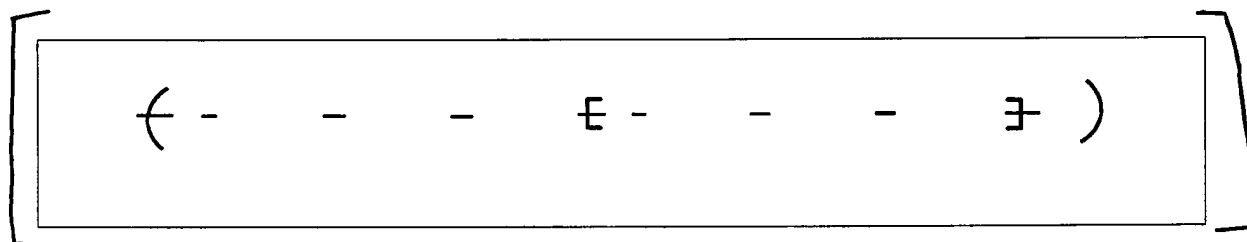
**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Cancel claims 4 and 5.

Amend claims 1 and 7 as follows:

1. (amended) A process for preparing graft copolymers of polyvinyl esters by polymerization of

- a) at least one vinyl ester of aliphatic C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-carboxylic acids in the presence of
- b) polyethers which are solid at room temperature and have the general formula I



in which the variables have the following meaning, independently of one another:

R<sup>1</sup> hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-alkyl, R<sup>9</sup>-C(=O)-, R<sup>9</sup>-NH-C(=O)-, polyalcohol residue;

R<sup>8</sup> hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-alkyl, R<sup>9</sup>-C(=O)-, R<sup>9</sup>-NH-C(=O)-;

R<sup>2</sup> to R<sup>7</sup> -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-, -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)-,  
-CH<sub>2</sub>-CHOR<sup>10</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>-;

R<sup>9</sup> C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-alkyl;

$R^{10}$  hydrogen,  $C_1-C_{24}$ -alkyl,  $R^9-C(=O)-$ ;

A  $-C(=O)-O-$ ,  $-C(=O)-B-C(=O)-O-$ ,  $-C(=O)-NH-B-NH-C(=O)-O-$ ;

B  $-(CH_2)_t-$ , arylene, optionally substituted;

n 1 to 8;

s 0 to 500;

t 1 to 12;

u 1 to 5000;

v 0 to 5000;

w 0 to 5000;

x 1 to 5000;

y 0 to 5000;

z 0 to 5000

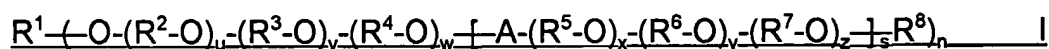
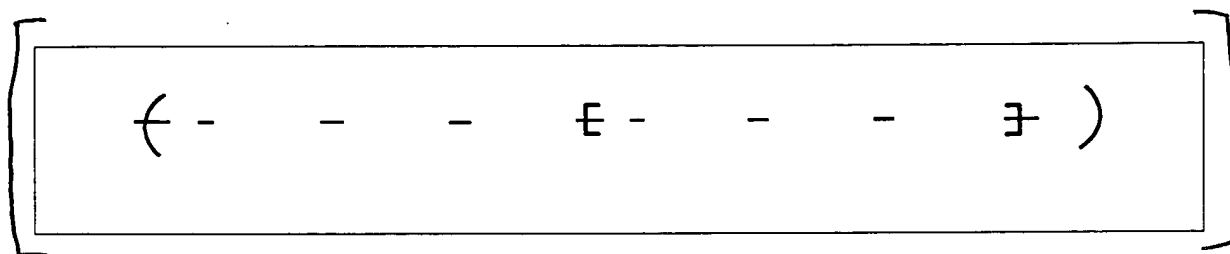
c) and, where appropriate, at least one other monomer

using a free-radical initiator system, wherein liquid polyalkylene glycol is used as solvent for the free-radical initiator system.

7. (amended) Graft copolymers of polyvinyl esters obtainable by polymerization of

a) at least one vinyl ester of aliphatic  $C_1-C_{24}$ -carboxylic acids in the presence of

b) polyethers which are solid at room temperature and have the general formula I



in which the variables have the following meaning, independently of one another:

R<sup>1</sup> hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>–C<sub>24</sub>–alkyl, R<sup>9</sup>–C(=O)–, R<sup>9</sup>–NH–C(=O)–, polyalcohol residue;

R<sup>8</sup> hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>–C<sub>24</sub>–alkyl, R<sup>9</sup>–C(=O)–, R<sup>9</sup>–NH–C(=O)–;

R<sup>2</sup> to R<sup>7</sup> –(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>–, –(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>–, –(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>–, –CH<sub>2</sub>–CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)–, –CH<sub>2</sub>–CH(CH<sub>2</sub>–CH<sub>3</sub>)–,  
–CH<sub>2</sub>–CHOR<sup>10</sup>–CH<sub>2</sub>–;

R<sup>9</sup> C<sub>1</sub>–C<sub>24</sub>–alkyl;

R<sup>10</sup> hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>–C<sub>24</sub>–alkyl, R<sup>9</sup>–C(=O)–;

A –C(=O)–O–, –C(=O)–B–C(=O)–O–, –C(=O)–NH–B–NH–C(=O)–O–;

B –(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>t</sub>–, arylene, optionally substituted;

n 1 to 8;

s 0 to 500;

t 1 to 12;

u 1 to 5000;

v 0 to 5000;

w 0 to 5000;

x 1 to 5000;

y 0 to 5000;

z 0 to 5000

c) and, where appropriate, at least one other monomer

using a free-radical initiator system, wherein liquid polyalkylene glycol is used as solvent for the free-radical initiator system.

Add new claims 8 and 9:

8. (new) Coating agents, binders or film-forming excipients for pharmaceutical dosage forms comprising a polymer produced by the process of claim 1.

9. (new) Cosmetic, hygienic or dermatological preparations containing a polymer produced by the process of claim 1.